GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:644
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
GRAIN GENE BANKS
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether older seeds of grain like rice are dying out;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to establish grain gene banks for preservation of such seeds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Low yielding old varieties of grain crops are being replaced by new high yielding varieties/hybrids to meet the food demands.

(b) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), established at New Delhi has a national mandate of collecting and safely conserving the traditional land races and related wild and weedy species of all crop plants.

(c) The national gene bank (seed gene bank) of NBPGR, New Delhi presently holds a total of 83,066 accessions of rice land races and their wild relatives.